



CALL TO DUTY

BOOTS ON THE GROUND™

ARMY MODERNIZATION (FCS) MEDIA PRIMER

Army Modernization in Brief

- The Army is modernizing for the first time in decades through its Future Combat Systems program.
- The FCS program is effecting true ground-force modernization because it will help to modernize not just the Army, but the Marine Corps and Special Operations Forces as well.
- Army modernization is focused on the conflicts we face today and the kinds of wars we anticipate in the future.
- Precursor FCS technologies already are saving Soldiers' lives in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Army Modernization: An Operational Imperative

Military-Technological Superiority

- **The Army is modernizing so that Soldiers retain a decisive military-technological edge over America's enemies.**

The Army has not modernized comprehensively in decades. But America's enemies are innovative and resourceful, and they are not standing still. Technology, meanwhile, is advancing and proliferating at a breakneck speed. That's why the Army is now modernizing: to protect and empower Soldiers.

IEDS

- **The Army is modernizing to protect Soldiers against Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), which are ubiquitous in Iraq and Afghanistan and killing so many American troops there.**

Current Army fighting vehicles are the best in the world, but they were designed decades ago for a different era and a different war. They were designed to protect against Soviet tank and artillery rounds. More importantly, Army fighting vehicles lack sufficient underside protection to protect against IEDs, which explode under a vehicle.

But we are in this war to win. That's why new FCS vehicles are being designed with a full suite of active and passive protection systems for full-scale, 360-degree protection. And current Army vehicles will be upgraded with new FCS capabilities for enhanced troop and vehicular protection. When our Soldiers are in harm's way, we must do everything possible to equip and protect them.

Irregular Combat

- **The Army is modernizing to empower Soldiers in close and irregular combat.**

Today, adversaries rarely confront the United States military in direct, set-piece military engagements. Instead, irregular, asymmetric warfare accounts for the greatest number of U.S. military casualties.

Past military modernizations developed large-scale systems—nuclear weapons, ships, aircraft carriers, et al.—that empowered higher-ranking theater and division commanders. With FCS, the Army is modernizing precisely to empower lower-ranking Soldiers—so that they have more capabilities and greater protection in 21st Century irregular, asymmetric warfare.



Army Modernization: An Operational Imperative

Protecting Soldiers

- **The Army is modernizing to ensure that our Soldiers always have the best available protection for rapidly evolving threats.**

There's a saying that old Generals tend to fight the last war, not the new and current conflict. The Army is modernizing precisely to avert this problem. We recognize that America confronts a learning and adaptive enemy who embraces change and new technologies with a minimum of bureaucratic hassle.

That's why we've developed a modernization strategy designed to accommodate new technological advances on an expeditious "plug-and-play" basis. No longer will our Soldiers have to wait years and decades for new equipment. Army modernization allows for the rapid fielding of new, modern capabilities as they become available. Our Soldiers, consequently, will be prepared for new threats as they emerge, not when it is too late.

21st Century Threats

- **The Army is modernizing so that we can provide the forces for victory in 21st Century conflicts.**

Our Army must deploy quickly and trans-continentally, fight upon arrival, and prevail even in chaotic urban settings. That's why we're modernizing: to build a more agile, versatile, mobile, lethal, and self-sustaining force that will move as fast as 21st Century conflicts demand. The Cold War Army is too heavy and too slow for today's fights.

Army Modernization: Cost-Effective and Affordable

- **Army modernization is demonstrably working in accordance with all Army cost, schedule and performance criteria.**

Army modernization and the FCS program are fundamentally different from many large-scale, technology development acquisition programs. Now 42 months underway, the Army's FCS program is on cost and on schedule.

- **Army modernization and the FCS program have strong Congressional support; however, policymakers must resist the historic temptation to sacrifice modernization.**

Some critics complain that Army modernization is too expensive. This is not the case. The Army has adopted an incremental approach to modernization; costs are allocated over a two-decade period. This approach ensures that modernization costs in any given year are reasonable, sustainable and affordable.

In FY 2008, the Army is requesting \$3.7 billion for FCS modernization and \$4.2 billion for aviation modernization. This is a significant amount of money; however, it represents 3.7 percent of the Army's total budget request. (The Army's total FY08 budget is \$213.5 billion. This includes \$83.4 billion supplemental to prosecute the Global War on Terror).

The Army has cancelled more than 100 programs in recent years—including the \$39-billion armed reconnaissance Comanche helicopter—to fund modernization. No other military service has sacrificed a major weapons program.

Army Modernization Strategy

- **The Army has adopted an innovative modernization strategy, which:**

Speeds up the Procurement Process.

Past procurement practices resulted in technological obsolescence because systems were fielded decades later with technologies fixed in the initial program design phase. With FCS, modern technologies are spun-out more rapidly, as they mature. The new systems are designed to accommodate technological upgrades on an expeditious "plug-and-play" basis.

Gets New Capabilities to Soldiers Sooner.

Soldiers used to wait decades for new and more modern equipment, but not anymore. With FCS, the Army is fielding prototype modern capabilities today. Moreover, new capabilities are being "spun out" incrementally to Soldiers at least every two years.

Avoids the Standard Bureaucratic Delays Associated with Technology Development Programs.